

cont
to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

cont
3. (amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the causing is carried out at a temperature ranging from 0 to 60°C.

8. (amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25% by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, and a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

9. (amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25% by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, and a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of the basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1;

forming a reaction system in which inorganic acid radical is substantially absent; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution

containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

10. (amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

causing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25% by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with basic aqueous solution containing a basic substance, in a reaction system in which inorganic acid radial is substantially absent so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

11. (amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

forming a reaction system in which inorganic acid radial is substantially absent; and

causing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing not greater than about 0.25% by weight of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with a basic aqueous solution containing a basic substance, in said reaction system so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 1-11 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action dated March 27, 2002, a certified copy of the foreign priority documented was indicated as not being filed; and claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 703 450 ("Kawai") alone